

THE BIBLE

Where did the bible come from? Neither Jesus nor the apostles said anything about writing a New Testament consisting of 27 books.

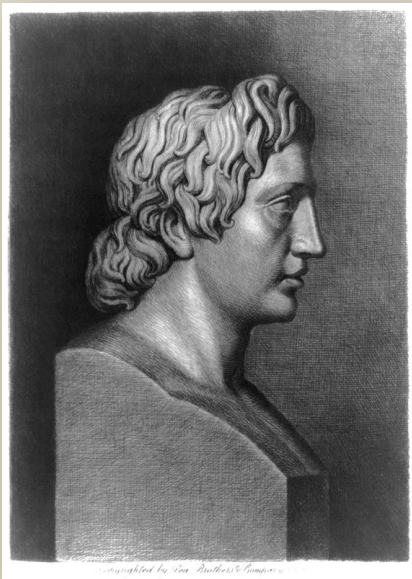
How do we know who wrote the Gospels? The writers do not identify themselves nor do they claim to be writing “inspired” scripture.

How do we know that Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles? His name is never mentioned.

Who wrote the Letter to the Hebrews and was the writer inspired by God?

Should the Old Testament have 46 books as in the Catholic Bible or only 39 books as in the Protestant Bible?

Alexander the Great



To begin we need to briefly go back to the year 325 BC where we find that the civilized world had been conquered by Alexander the Great. With his conquering army he brought with him the Greek culture and the Greek language.

This had a huge impact on the Jews who had settled in Egypt after being held captive in Babylon until being freed by the Persians in 538 BC.

With Greek now the common language the Jews living in Alexandria Egypt commissioned 70 scholars to translate the Hebrew Scriptures into the Greek language. This Greek translation became known as the Septuagint, meaning seventy.

This Greek translation contained seven more books than did the Hebrew Scriptures for a total of 46 books. The scriptures that Jesus and the apostles read were from the Greek Septuagint and not the Hebrew scriptures. We know this because Jesus and the New Testament writers quote from the Greek translation over 300 times.

For example in Matthew 1:22-23 the author quoting from the Greek Septuagint says: “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.” Matthew cannot be quoting from the Hebrew Scriptures because in the Hebrew Scriptures it reads: “Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son.” (Isaiah 7:14)

In John 10:22 we are told that Jesus was in Jerusalem during the “feast of the Dedication.” This is known to Jews as *Hanukkah*. This holy day of the Jewish religion comes from the book of Maccabees which is not in the Hebrew Scriptures. The two books of Maccabees are from the Greek Septuagint and are not in Protestant Bibles.



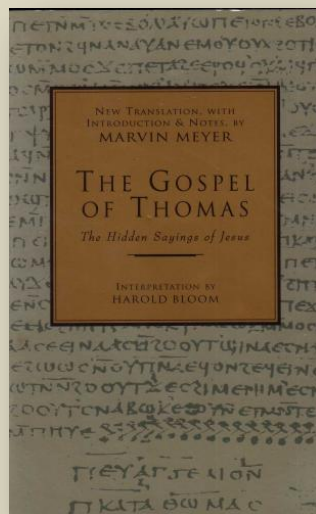
Jesus never told the apostles to write anything about His teachings. He told them to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20

As the decades passed Paul began to write letters to the troubled churches admonishing them and praising them.

Soon the Gospels were written as well as other letters like the Acts of the Apostles.

But other books were written as well. The Didache, the Shepherd of Hermas, the Letter to the Hebrews, the Letters of Clement, the Epistle of Barnabas, Revelation of John, the Letter to the Laodiceans, first and second John, first and second Peter, the Epistle of James and the Epistle of Jude.

The Gnostic Gospels



By the end of the second century over 200 books were claimed by some to be the inspired word of God. The Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary, the Gospel of Judas, the Gospel of Philip, the Gospel of the Lord, the Gospel of Truth, the Secret Book of John and many others.

What books should be included in the Canon of Scripture? What was inspired?

By the year 330 there was no recognized Canon of Scripture. In other words, the Bible we have today did not exist 300 years after Christ ascended into heaven.

Eusebius of Caesarea writing around the year 324 AD

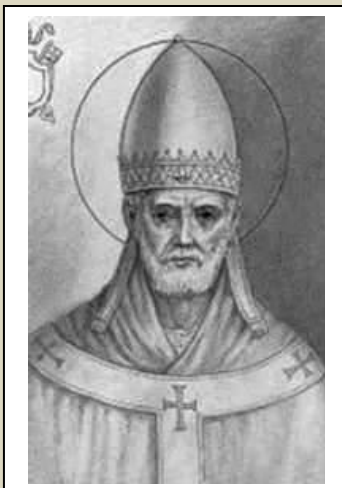


“At this point it may be appropriate to list the New Testament writings already referred to. The holy quartet of the Gospels which are followed by the Acts of the Apostles. After this we must reckon the epistles of Paul; following which we must pronounce genuine the epistle of John, and likewise the epistle of Peter. ...**But of those which are disputed**, nevertheless familiar to the majority, there is the epistle of James, as it is called; and that of Jude; and the second epistle of Peter; and the second and third of John, so named, whether they belong to the evangelist or perhaps to some other of the same name as he. **Among the spurious writings** there are to be placed also the book of the Acts of Paul, and the Shepherd, as it is called, and the Apocalypse of Peter; and, in addition to

these, the epistle of Barnabas, and the Teachings of the Apostles, as it is called; and, moreover, as I said, the Apocalypse of John if it seems right. (This last, as I said, is rejected by some, but others give it a place among the acknowledged writings.) And among these some have reckoned also the Gospel of the Hebrews, a work which is especially acceptable to such Hebrews as received the Christ. Now all these would be among the disputed writings; but nevertheless we have been compelled to make a catalogue of these also, distinguishing those writings which the tradition of the Church has deemed true and genuine....The heretics put forward in the name of the apostles, the Gospels of Peter and Thomas and Matthias, or even of some others besides these, or as containing Acts of Andrew and John and the other apostles”.

Pope Damasus I

Eusebius *History of the Church*



In the year 382 the Council of Rome under the authority of Pope Damasus I listed the books of the Bible that we have today. This was ratified at the Council of Hippo in 393, the Council of Carthage in 397 and the Council of Carthage in 419.

Council of Rome 382 AD

"Likewise it has been said: Now indeed we must treat of the divine Scriptures, what the **universal Catholic Church** accepts and what she ought to shun.

"The order of the Old Testament begins here: Genesis one book, Exodus one book, Leviticus one book, Numbers one book, Deuteronomy one book, Joshua one book, Judges one book, Ruth one book, Kings four books (, II Kings, I, II Samuel) I and II Chronicles, Psalms one book, Solomon three books, Proverbs one book, Ecclesiastes one book, Canticle of Canticles one book [Song of Songs], likewise **Wisdom** one book, Ecclesiasticus (**Sirach**) one book.

Likewise the order of the Prophets. Isaiah one book. Jeremiah one book, (**includes Baruch**) with Ginoth, that is, with his lamentations, Ezechiel one book, Daniel one book, Hosea, Micah one book, Joel one book, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum one book, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Malachi one book.

Likewise the order of the histories: Job one book, **Tobit**, Esdras two books, Esther one book, **Judith** one book, **Machabees** **two** books.

Likewise ,the order of the writings of the New and eternal Testament which the holy and **Catholic Church** supports. Of the Gospels, according to Matthew, one book, according to Mark one book, according to Luke one book, according to John one book.

The Epistles of Paul in number fourteen. To the Romans one, to the Corinthians two, to the Ephesians one, to the Thessalonians two, to the Galatians one, to the Philippians one, to the Colossians one, to Timothy two, to Titus one, to Philemon one, to the Hebrews one.

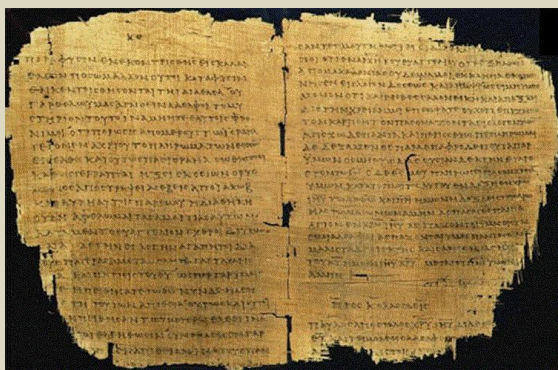
Likewise the Apocalypse of John (**Revelation**),one book. And the Acts of the Apostles one book.

Likewise the canonical epistles in number seven. Of Peter the Apostle, two epistles, of James the Apostle one epistle, of John the Apostle one epistle, of another John, the presbyter, two epistles, of Jude the Zealot, the Apostles one epistle"

The seven books in **red** were removed from the Bible by Protestants in the 17th century.

This is why Catholic Bibles have 46 Old Testament books and Protestant Bibles have 39 Old Testament Books. All Bibles have 27 New Testament books.

Small fragment from the fourth century



The original manuscripts were written on papyrus or vellum and they soon began to deteriorate. It was therefore necessary for the Catholic Church to make handwritten copies of the entire Bible. Catholic monks continued this process until the invention of the printing press in 1440. The first book to be printed was the Catholic Guttenberg Bible.

Protestant Objection: The Catholic Church added seven books to the Bible at the Council of Trent in 1550.

Catholic Answer: The seven books have always been in the Old Testament Scriptures as part of the Greek Septuagint that was used by Jesus and the apostles. The oldest Greek manuscripts in existence all include these seven books. Protestants removed these seven books from the Bible in the 17th century.

Protestant Objection: Catholics chained up Bibles to keep the people from reading them.

Catholic Answer: It is estimated that in today dollars it would have cost over \$100,000 to produce a single bible. They were chained to keep them from being stolen so that people could read them. Today, libraries do the same. They chain valuable books or encase them in glass.

Protestant Objection: The Catholic Church kept the bible in Latin, an unknown language.

Catholic Answer: The Church translated the bible from Greek to Latin around the year 400. This was because Latin was the common language of the Roman Empire.

Protestant Objection: Martin Luther was the first to translation the bible into a common language.

Catholic Answer: The Catholic Church has always translated the Bible into common languages. The oldest manuscripts that exist today are in Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Coptic, Syriac, Slavic, Gothic, Armenian, German and others.

Protestant Objection: The Catholic Church burned bibles

Catholic Answer: Yes the Church burned bible translations by dissident Catholics that included heretical commentaries that taught false doctrines. At this time in history there was no separation of Church and State and teaching heresy was considered to be “treason” by the State. During this same time Protestant John Calvin burned copies of the Servetus Bible.

Protestant Objection: I can tell just by reading what is inspired. I don’t need the Catholic Church

Catholic Answer: To this day no one knows who wrote the Letter to the Hebrews. It doesn’t claim to be inspired. We only know from Tradition the authors of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. None of the books of the Bible claim to be inspired. It was the Catholic Church, guided by the Holy Spirit that discerned what was inspired and what was not.

In Colossians 4:16 Saint Paul says, “See also that you read the letter from Laodicea.” Why isn’t the Letter to the Laodiceans in the Bible? It is because the Catholic Church determined that the Letter in her possession was a forgery. By what authority could the Church declare that? By the authority given to her by Christ to bind on earth what is bound in heaven.

Protestant Objection: The Catholic Church forbids interpretation of the bible.

Catholic Answer: The Church allows interpretation of bible passages as long as that interpretation doesn’t conflict with Church teaching.

Protestant Objection: Christians are guided by the Holy Spirit to correctly interpret scripture.

Catholic Answer: If they Holy Spirit were guiding Christians to correctly interpret scripture there wouldn’t be over 30,000 Protestant denominations with different interpretations. Only one Church, the Catholic Church, has the authority to correctly interpret scripture since the Catholic Church was founded by Christ.

In Acts 8:26-35 Philip the Deacon came upon an Ethiopian who was reading the scriptures and asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading? And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me.” Philip, as an ordained Deacon, had the apostolic authority to correctly interpret the scriptures. Likewise the Catholic Church has the apostolic authority to interpret the scriptures.

Protestant Objection: Athanasius had the exact New Testament Canon that we have today.

Catholic Answer: Athanasius was a Bishop of the Catholic Church. He did have a list that was identical to our New Testament. However this was in the year 367 which is more than 330 years after Christ. Other Bishops in other parts of the world had different lists with different books. Also, Athanasius included Baruch in his Old Testament Canon. Baruch is not in Protestant bibles.

Protestant Objection: In Acts 17 Paul taught from the scriptures to the Berean Jews about Jesus Christ and in Acts 17:11 scripture says they, "Received the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so." That proves that all we need is the bible. We need to be like the Bereans and search the scriptures.

Catholic Answer: The Berean Jews were using scripture "alone" and it did not help them to recognize Jesus as their Messiah. It took Paul, a bishop of the Church, who had apostolic authority to interpret the scriptures correctly for them. Just like the Ethiopian they needed someone with apostolic authority to guide them and find the true meaning of the passage.

The bible actually forbids private interpretation. Peter warns us that even in his day destructive heresies came about because of private interpretation:

"First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke for God. But false teachers also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who brought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction." 2 Peter 1:20-2:1

Peter also said that untrained and un-established people can twist the words of scripture.

"Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the unlearned and unstable twist to their own destruction as they do they other scriptures." 2 Peter 3:16

The Queen James Bible



When one rejects that Christ established an authoritative Church then there are no limits as to how far men will go to promote their own agendas. We now have the ultimate example, the Queen James Bible where the editors plainly state, "We edited the Bible to prevent homophobic interpretations."

Any verses that condemn homosexual sex have been re-translated to say that it was idolatry and not homosexual sex that was condemned by God.

An article on five myths about the seven books that are not in Protestant bibles: [HERE](#)

Recommended book: *Where We Got the Bible* by Henry Graham

Next topic: The Crusades and The Inquisition.